

tity of these trees with the *Adansonia* of Senegal ; but it will not be the less interesting, should this be the case, to ascertain what vegetable giant in Western Africa represents the colossus of the East.

Some sets of M. Kotschy's Taurus and Syrian plants, consisting of from 230 to 260 species, most of them named, may still be had at the rate of about thirty shillings the hundred, besides the carriage from Vienna. The collections from Nubia are on their way to Vienna, and the price will only be fixed after their arrival there.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A History of British Reptiles. By Thomas Bell, Professor of Zoology in King's College, London. Illustrated by a Wood Cut of each Species, with some of the varieties, and numerous Vignettes, No. I. 8vo. Van Voorst, London, 1838.

THIS is the first number of another portion of M. Van Voorst's series of works illustrating the British Fauna, and in its general character we think it one of the very best. The figures are well and *scientifically* drawn, and are beautifully cut. The descriptive part is also excellent, and enters at once into the difficult parts of the synonymy, and the distinctions between the species of our reptiles which are allied to each other, or to those of the continent. We have only one objection; the work is a history of BRITISH REPTILES, but the range of the species out of England is scarcely touched on. This information, it is true, is difficult to be procured from actual observation, but there are surely persons in both the sister divisions of our islands who would have willingly communicated what they knew.

The number commences with the two turtles (*Chelonia imbricata* and *Sphargis coriacea*) which possess so slender a claim to a place in our Fauna. We would consider the instances where both species have been found within the range as entirely accidental. And it seems questionable even that either of them were wafted to our shores, from having mistaken their course, or from an extraordinary war of elements. The *Lacertidæ* follow next, and in the description of the first, the application of *Lacerta agilis*, Linn., to the proper animal seems clearly made out, and the fact of our possessing two species, members of distinct genera, established without a doubt. We are not aware that the *L. agilis*, Linn. and Bell, *L. Stirpium* of Jenyns, has yet been discovered in Scotland; since the publication of the 'Manual' by the last-named naturalist we have been look-

ing anxiously for it, but in all the inland localities the little *Zootoca vivipara* only occurs. The latter species, which Mr. Bell remarks extends "even into Scotland," is most abundant, and ranges far to the north. We have seen it on the southern confines of Sutherland and Ross-shire, and from thence to the English border; it is common on all the subalpine heaths reaching to a considerable elevation. It is also frequent on the sandy downs of the coast where heath and bent-grass abound, and where the true *L. agilis* might be expected. We would remark of Mr. Bell's figure or cut of this pretty reptile, that the common Scotch variety is more distinctly marked than that which he has exhibited, the interior of the lateral dark markings being bordered by a yellowish white line, clearly conspicuous even when the creature is running. In a specimen of what appears to be this reptile, taken on the coast, the scales containing the femoral pores are larger than what is stated. They appear as large as those represented in the cut at page 21, but are *round* and *oval*, not of the triangular form seen in fig. *a*. The animal, we think, agrees in other parts with the characters given of *Z. vivipara*, and in the proportion of the toes and toothless palate.

The subject of the next figure and description, *Anguis fragilis*, is also common in the south of Scotland. We have found it most commonly in dry, stony, subalpine situations, where it easily finds a retreat on the appearance of danger.

A beautifully cut figure of the common snake follows, but as the description is just commenced, we leave it till the publication of the next number.

The Birds of Australia and the adjacent Islands. By John Gould, F.L.S. Part II. Folio. London, 1838.

We formerly (in the Mag. of Zool. and Bot. vol. ii. p. 357.) noticed the first and commencing number of this work, produced in the same style of art, and on a similar scale, with Mr. Gould's other highly-finished illustrations. The second part is now before us, equal in every respect to its predecessor, and containing figures of the following species: but before making any remark upon them, we cannot avoid alluding to the expedition which our author has in contemplation to make to Australia. Such a journey will be of the highest interest to the traveller; and knowing Mr. Gould's activity in the field, and his qualifications for observation and recording what he does observe, we look forward to his return with an intense interest. Many species have now been forwarded to Europe from this most interesting country, a few of them from very inland districts;